

ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD

STRIKING FEATURES IN RECENT GAMES
—THE COMING YALE-PRINCETON
STRUGGLE—END OF THE
SEASON NEAR.

There has been no previous football season that has been quite so replete with surprises as that now under way and drawing to a close. Football every year is marked by reversals in form and unexpected upsets, but not a single Saturday has passed in the season of 1899 that has not been made conspicuous by surprises and by unexpected victories won by dark horses. The one, a week ago Saturday, that caused chief comment was the overturn of Cornell by Lafayette. The result was a bitter disappointment to the Ithacans, who believed that, after the victories over Princeton and Columbia, they would be able to finish the season without any reverses. Lafayette's triumph was certainly unexpected, but by no means inexplicable.

In the first place, Lafayette has a strong eleven this year, which has defeated the University of Pennsylvania team, and it has played excellent football. Captain Bray is one of the best men in a broken field on the college gridiron to-day. Every three or four years Lafayette turns out an excellent team, and in the years past has played Princeton to a standstill once or twice, and defeated Pennsylvania. The Lafayette men were in the best possible condition, and had been trained to the hour for the struggle with Cornell. For Captain Bray appreciated the fact that the Ithacans would be a good deal used up from their hard games with Princeton and Columbia, and Lafayette was determined to take full advantage of this circumstance. Cornell displayed little of the form which had enabled her to triumph over Princeton and to overwhelm Columbia. Her men were stiff and sore and pretty well tired out, lacking the vigor to withstand the terrific hammering which Lafayette used with the guards back formation. Walbridge, Cornell's crack halfback, was also out of the game, and his absence must have made material difference.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE COACHING.

An extremely disagreeable feature of the Cornell-Lafayette contest, and, in fact, the only unpleasant point of the afternoon, was the tactics of Coach Hamilton, who, it was credibly reported, repeatedly coached his men, not only from the side line, but even rushed out on the field occasionally. Foster Sanford, Columbia's coach, was an offender in this same way in the Yale game a few weeks ago, and in the Union-Hamilton game, on November 11, it was declared that Sweetland, an old Cornell man and Hamilton's coach, had to be hustled off the field by Union, his actions were so offensive. It is worth while making note of these instances, for the only way to eradicate similar offenses is to have all the facts made public and to have football enthusiasts appreciate just what this side line coaching means.

It is the case in football more than in any other college sport that head work and generalship cut a big figure in the result. An eleven of magnificent body and team work, without good generalship, is in a far worse plight frequently than a weak team whose maneuvers are perfect. It is just as much a part of football to develop head work as it is to develop a good defense or good rushing halfbacks. When, therefore, a coach from the side lines instructs his players, it simply means that he is supplying that most important element of head work, and that the opposing eleven is playing against a team of twelve men instead of eleven. That is all it amounts to. Twelve men against eleven, and the twelfth man on the team usually a veteran of long and varied experience.

The result of the Harvard-Dartmouth game a week ago, in which Harvard scored only eleven points, was also by many considered to be one of the surprises of the day in football. It would be idle, however, to discuss whether Harvard's fumbling and weak play were due to a wet field and care not to injure the players, or to an actual falling off in work. This question will be definitely decided without further discussion by the time these notes go to press, for at the time of writing Harvard and Yale are playing their great game, and Harvard's success for the season must rise or fall upon the result of that contest. There has been some talk about an endeavor to arrange a game between Harvard and Cornell in this city on December 2. There is, however, little likelihood of any such game being played, as Harvard has definitely arranged to close her season in the struggle with Yale.

Williams showed her great superiority over Amherst in the one-sided score of 38 to 0 in the championship game at Williamstown a week ago. It was expected that the Berkshire men would win decisively, but not by such a large score. Wesleyan is altogether likely to beat Amherst in the game that was scheduled for November 18, and that, at the time of writing, is being played. This will leave the championship of the Triangular New-England League to be fought out between Wesleyan and Williams, on November 25, at Middletown. From the form shown by the two elevens this season, Wesleyan is likely to win the struggle, but it will be a close, grueling contest, and no one would be surprised to see the strong Williams eleven reverse the expected order and come out on top. Whichever of the two colleges wins will naturally take the place next to Brown as the leading eleven for the season in New-England, outside of Harvard and Yale. It is a pity that there is no definite way of deciding that Brown is fully entitled to the distinction just mentioned, but her form thus far this season would certainly warrant that belief.

THE QUAKER VICTORY OVER MICHIGAN.

Pennsylvania showed the right sort of nerve when with a score of 5 to 0 against her at the end of the first half she scored 11 points in the second half of the game against Michigan, though allowing the Western players to make another 5 points, the Quakers finally winning the struggle by one point. The Michigan team is always strong, and last year was perhaps the strongest of the Western university elevens. If the same is the case this year it is hardly possible that the leading Western teams should be classed with the teams at the top of the list in the East, for Pennsylvania, who defeated Michigan, is not close to the top this year. The annual game at Philadelphia between the Quakers and Cornell, which arouses immense interest and in which to date the Philadelphians have always been victorious, will not be played for twelve days yet, and many things can happen within that time. But in spite of the Quakers' apparent brace, and in spite of the defeat of Cornell by Lafayette, I look to see Cornell win from Pennsylvania. Cornell will take a good rest between now and Thanksgiving Day, and will nurse her players tenderly. In addition to that, the Ithacans are, beginning tomorrow, to have the benefit of the coaching of Lewis, of Harvard, who is generally considered the greatest tactician on the defense of any team in the country. He it is who devised Harvard's splendid defense that was impregnable last year and that has been first class this season.

J. William White, who is chairman of the University of Pennsylvania Athletic Committee, has written a letter to "The Pennsylvania," the daily paper published by the students, in which he gives several reasons for the poor showing made by the Quakers this season. He says the principal difficulty has been that the men have not been in condition to play football, and that that fact is sufficient to account for all the reverses. He goes on to say that it has been a mistake to allow one coach to undertake the whole work of developing the team, and that it has also been poor policy to omit the preliminary training which had been a feature of former years.

What is usually considered the most important of the preparatory school games, the contest between Exeter and Andover, has resulted in a victory by a score of 17 to 0 for Andover. Moreover, this was on Exeter's own campus, and therefore must be considered an especially great triumph for Andover. Last year the game was a tie, and it is rather a striking coincidence that these two schools, which are essentially Harvard and Yale fitting schools, should in one year play a tie game and in the next year one defeat the other by a score of 17 to 0. The parallel is not perfect, however, for Exeter is the Harvard of the North, and it was Exeter that was defeated this year. Two or three of the crack eleven last season are on the Harvard freshman football team, and are doing excellent work. They may be looked for on the "Varsity" field in another year.

WHO WILL BE THE VICTOR?

Every eye now will be turned toward the Yale-Princeton game to be played at New-Haven next Saturday. As these notes are written much before the result of the Harvard-Yale game is known, it would be presumptuous to attempt to know, in any authoritative way, tactfully, or in any authoritative way, to the probable outcome of the contest between Yale and the Tigers. It may happen that the Yale eleven, which has seemed in the last decade and so Yale-like a thing in the Harvard game, will do wonderful things in the Harvard game. On the other hand, Yale's material may have been greatly overrated and she may fall down badly before her crimson rivals. After attempting, however, to fathom such possibilities, one may still draw some conclusions from the work of the Yale and Princeton elevens this year.

First, then, it has been repeatedly stated that

Yale's material this year is excellent, but that the chief difficulty has been to round it into good form. To my mind, Yale's material this year has not been of the highest order. Her timber for centre positions has been below par, and neither Cunha nor Olcott has been up to the Yale standard. The tackles have been much better, but at end rush again, while there has been an abundance of candidates, Yale has had no end rusher who could hold a candle to Hinkley or Stagg or Wallace or Hartwell. Back of the line of course, Yale is solidly fixed with McBride at full back, Fincke at quarter, however, is by no means infallible, though the other two positions back of the line will probably be filled with exceedingly capable men. Much for the actual material with which Yale had to work. What Yale can make of poor material is altogether a different thing, and that is what is going to tell in the final result. At Princeton, on the other hand, the material has all along been excellent, with the possible exception of halfback Fincke, and that is now proving much better. In the line, for instance, Princeton is exceedingly strong with Booth and Edwards, who have been playing side by side for three years, and the other guard is all right. At one tackle position is Hillebrand, the old Princeton captain, who has been on the eleven for four years, and who, while not yet up to his game, is mighty strong with the tackle position. The other tackle position is not so well filled. But at ends Princeton's material in Palmer and Poe, whose names are well known, is distinctly superior to that of Yale. Back from the games that I have been able to see, I judge Hutchinson to be a better man than Fincke. At halfback McCormick is a line breaker of a high order. Princeton's other half-

back, whoever he may be, will not be so strong by a good deal. At fullback Wheeler, although he outplayed McBride in the game last year, is likely to be inferior to McBride this year, as he is not in the best of shape. On the whole, though, Princeton's material has all season been distinctly better than Yale's, and the question then is whether Yale can round out her weaker material into a team that can play Princeton's stronger material to a standstill. This sort of thing has been accomplished more than once in the past, and it is a good show of its being repeated this year. From present outlook, while the chances favor the Princeton team slightly, the odds on the Tigers being victorious are three times that after the Harvard game, the chances of the line and the other half of Yale will be playing on her own grounds. The fact, also, is not to be overlooked that quite aside from the question of relative merit, the mathematical chances are in favor of Yale. That is to say, she has never had Princeton beaten Yale two years in succession at football. Yale has invariably, by hook or crook, managed to prevent such a result, even when Yale has been strongly against her. In the Yale game, the chances of the line and the other half of Yale will be playing on her own grounds. The fact, also, is not to be overlooked that quite aside from the question of relative merit, the mathematical chances are in favor of Yale. That is to say, she has never had Princeton beaten Yale two years in succession at football. Yale has invariably, by hook or crook, managed to prevent such a result, even when Yale has been strongly against her.

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